GENERAL NOTES

TENNESSEE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

October marked the close of the first year's work of this association and the results were quite up to expectations. A great deal of field work has been done and the status of a great many of the rarer birds has been put on a definite basis. Lack of time and opportunities have prevented observations on other species whose distinction is still much in question. Local lists have been secured from observers, chiefly in the central part of the state, and revisions and additions to these in future is part of the working plan. Arrangement has been made with the State Department of Fish and Game to finance the publication of several bulletins. A number of new members have been added during the year and efforts have been made to standardize their observations along systematic lines.

The pleasure and recreation afforded by bird study is being advanced as a substitute for the hunting and killing of game birds. Two full page illustrated bulletins to this end have been prepared and published simultaneously in the Sunday editions of the leading newspapers of the state. Meetings or outings have been held semi-monthly except during the summer months. Several joint outing trips have been taken to localities which appeared to offer special faunal variations.

The first annual meeting was held October 20, in Nashville, and the following officers were elected: Prof. A. C. Webb, president; Judge H. T. Hughes, vice-president; Dr. G. R. Mayfield, secretary-treasurer; A. F. Ganier, curator. New members elected at this time were H. A. Cummins, Prof. E. C. Davis, H. E. Myers, J. T. Shaver, Dr. R. M. Strong, and H. S. Vaughn. The curator reported that the study collection of skins, now embracing over one hundred and seventy species of Tennessee birds, was available for the use of the members. The publication of the list of the birds of the state was postponed for a year pending the securing of more definite data on certain species.

The interest shown by a good percentage of the members of the Society is such that its permanency seems assured.

A. F. GANIER.

Nashville, Tenn.

"INCUBATION PERIOD OF KILLDEER."

In the September, 1916, number of the Wilson Bulletin, under the above caption, Mr. J. M. Bates describes the nesting of a Kill-

deer, whose nest was found May 20th, and the eggs thereof hatched June 15th, making a period of twenty-six days in which the eggs were known to have been incubated. The author concludes with this question: "Can anyone add more accurate data as to the period of incubation?"

The Killdeer, one of the breeding birds of my neighborhood, has furnished in years past many interesting notes for its family history. Its nest has frequently been found, but always some time after it had received its full complement of eggs. For about fifteen years I have maintained a standing offer of a dollar to any child, who would tell me of a nest in which the set of eggs had not been completed. Since the initial offer some of the boys have grown to manhood, always forgetful of the name of the species, but referring to it as "the dollar bird."

It was on our own home lot about one hundred feet beyond the fence of the house yard, in the afternoon of April 19, 1916, that my sister, Dr. E. Amelia Sherman, found a Killdeer's nest with only three eggs in it, the fourth being added the next day. On the morning of May 17th two eggs were hatched, and by six o'clock in the evening three birds were out of the shell. Early the next morning there was nothing in the nest but a newly hatched Killdeer, to the brooding of which the mother returned as soon as the intruder withdrew. A cold wind blew all that day, the nest was not visited again until 5 p. m., when it was found empty, but not more than two feet from it lay a velvety little Killdeer, dead, but not yet stiff. So closely did its concealing colors harmonize with its surroundings it was found only after most careful searching. That the incubation period for this nest of eggs was twenty-eight days there can be no doubt.

It is not certain that all of the other three young ones grew to maturity, but it is believed that they did. So protective was their coloration, so adroit was parental management, that they were not seen after leaving the nest until they had attained the size of the adult House Sparrow. This has been the experience with other broods studied in previous years, and it offers grounds for hope that the Nebraska birds evaded the snake as successfully as they did the ornithologists.

ALTHEA R. SHERMAN.

National, Iowa.

NOTES FROM LAKE COUNTY, OHIO.

Holboells Grebe: The autumn 1916 flight of the Holboells Grebe must have been halted a short time along our southern lake shore for on Oct. 8th I counted no less than eleven in a half mile walk